

**From:** Bob Wyatt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 1:51pm  
**Subject:** microsoft monopoly

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to you in the hope that through your decisions the software industry may become more open and, in turn, serve the public better. I am an educator, currently working on a PhD. in Applied Linguistics. I'm a long time computer user and programmer. Over the last few years, I have been deeply involved in distance education over the WWW. I use, on a daily basis, three different operating systems: Linux, MacOS9 and WindowsME.

In my opinion, the early advantages that Microsoft Windows offered have been far outweighed in recent years by their attempts to dominate the operating system market with truly inferior software. Estimates for the cost of time lost in dealing with Windows system crashes run literally into the billions. The lack of competition is in part due to the difficulty of writing software for someone's proprietary OS. The close linkage between MS applications and Windows straps the public with operating systems which always promise to be better, next time, but never are. We're supposed wait while they get it right, so that we can keep using MSWord.

If competition truly serves the public good, then we need to ask: "Why is it that MS has no serious competition?" Is it possible that there are no worthy adversaries, no one as good as they? Or is it possible that very rich and powerful businessmen are doing a disservice to the nation by maintaining their power not through better products, but through marketing manoeuvres and a tight grip on an early advantage that no one saw as unfair or dangerous at the time.

I respectfully petition you to level the playing field by ending or limiting the close relationship between Windows and MS software in the hope that it may stimulate what was once a vibrant and creative area, software application development. In closing, let me recall the words, "What's good for GM is good for America." Since that pronouncement was made, much has changed for consumers who now enjoy safer, more comfortable and more economical cars. Microsoft tells us it knows what we need and want. I say, give us a choice and we'll decide for ourselves.

Sincerely,

Prof. Robert D. Wyatt  
Dept. of Applied Linguistics  
The Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

